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present interest. On such selection there can of course be no general agreement, but the present work is doubtless as successful as any. At all events one finds here nearly if not quite all the familiar BLACKSTONE, and a good deal that few read at the present day, such for example as Book I, chapters 3 to 13, and a large part of Books III and IV.

It will be generally admitted that the production of BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARIES was one of the most extraordinary performances in the history of legal writing. Appearing just as the United States was entering on its existence as a nation, the COMMENTARIES constituted the whole law library of many a lawyer in the early days of our history, and lawyer and disciple of BLACKSTONE became synonymous terms. BLACKSTONE'S hold was scarcely relaxed for a century, and his work has a secure place as a legal classic. Nevertheless, it is as a classic, in its original form and not abridged, to be read by the trained lawyer, rather than as a text-book for the training of the law student, that it promises to hold its place in future. While some schools still use it as a text, yet its view of the nature of law is no longer accepted, its statements of legal principles are inadequate and necessarily often antiquated and misleading, and other methods of teaching have largely supplanted the pure text-book method, so that BLACKSTONE is less and less read as an introduction to legal study. In schools so using it, however, the present work will doubtless be considered very useful, for it is the result of long experience in such use, by a very able editor and teacher.

E. C. G.

THE CONTINENTAL LEGAL HISTORY SERIES. Edited by a Committee of the Association of American Law Schools.

IX. HISTORY OF FRENCH PUBLIC LAW. By Jean Brissaud, late Professor of Legal History in the University of Toulouse. Translated by James W. Gardner, Professor of Political Science in the University of Illinois. With Introductions by Harold D. Hazeltine, Reader in English Law in Cambridge University, and by Westel W. Willoughby, Professor of Political Science in Johns Hopkins University. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1915. pp. lviii, 581.

This volume represents Volume I of BRISSAUD'S "MANUEL D'HISTOIRE DU DROIT FRANCAIS." Volume III of this series ("HISTORY OF FRENCH PRIVATE LAW") gave to us Volume II of BRISSAUD'S treatise, while Part III of Volume I of this series ("GENERAL SURVEY") was a translation and condensation of pp. 150-345 of the first volume of BRISSAUD'S work. The translations of the other parts have been reviewed at some length in previous issues of this Review. (Cf. 11, MICH. L. REV. 342 and 496).

After a very interesting introduction on the origin of the state, this volume proceeds chronologically through the Roman epoch and the barbarian epoch, then devotes a chapter to the church under the "ancien régime," then, resuming the chronological treatment, gives us three chapters on the feudal period, and seven on the monarchical period, with a closing chapter on the revolutionary period. The institutions are treated topically in the several periods.

There is the same wealth of learning, accuracy of detail and clarity of style which characterize the earlier volumes and the subject matter is even more interesting. The breadth of treatment makes it not only a constitutional and institutional history of France, but also a most suggestive treatment of the comparative law of the European states. The chapters on continental feudalism are a welcome addition to our resources for the comparative study of Norman feudalism in England.